

# County of San Luis Obispo

## Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board



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**Agricultural Liaison  
Advisory Board (ALAB)**

### Positions/Members/Terms

CHAIR: R. Don Warden

District One: Mecham Appt.  
Dee Lacey, (1/13)

District Two: Gibson Appt.  
Lisen Bonnier (1/11)

District Three: Hill Appt.  
Tom Ikeda (1/13)

District Four: Achadjian Appt.  
Bill Struble (1/11)

District 5: Patterson Appt.  
Christine Maguire (1/09)

Agriculture Finance Rep.  
Mark Pearce (8/10)

Cattlemen Rep.  
Dick Nock

Coastal San Luis RCD Rep.  
Jean-Pierre Wolff (8/11)

Direct Marketing/Organic Rep.  
Eric Michielssen (4/12)

Environmental Rep.  
Anne McMahon (5/11)

Farm Bureau Rep.  
R. Don Warden

Nursery Rep.  
David Pruitt (4/12)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Rep.  
Charles Pritchard (1/10)

Vegetable Rep.  
Richard Quandt (4/12)

Wine Grape Rep.  
Neil Roberts (4/12)

County Agricultural Commissioner  
Bob Lilley, *Ex-Officio*

U.C. Coop. Extension / Farm Advisor  
Mary Bianchi, *Ex-Officio*

## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 2, 2009

**Guests Present:** None

**Absent Members:** Mark Pearce, Christine Maguire, Tom Ikeda, Chuck Pritchard, Mary Bianchi

**1. Call to Order:** 6:10 PM. Quorum Present

**2. Open comment:** None

### **3. Member/agency reports**

- Anne McMahon-
  - Anne has been meeting with representatives of various agencies and individuals assessing their interest in an open space/agriculture preservation district. Sonoma County Ag Preservation and Open Space District general manager is tentatively scheduled to be in San Luis Obispo on April 24<sup>th</sup> for a series of meetings regarding what an ag preservation and open space district entails.
- Agriculture Department (Brenda Ouwerkerk)
  - Corrected ALAB member contact roster information provided.
  - Agriculture Department budget situation was discussed. BOS approved plan to stop sale of rodent bait once current stock runs out. Stock will still be available through Kings County Ag Dept. for a reduced rate. Hand out provided with specific information.
  - Future BOS items include further discussion of ag clusters and Planning Dept priorities at February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The TDC discussions will continue on February 24<sup>th</sup>. No decisions have been made on any of these issues.
  - Because of continuing budget woes, hours of operation may be reduced at the Templeton and Arroyo Grande offices. Once a decision is made, information will be widely disseminated.
  - Weights and Measures and other positions may be cut as current employee is retiring.

- Looking for additional revenue sources, including possible increased fees.
- Crop report surveys due.

**4. Minutes:** January 5, 2009, ALAB minutes approved. Motion – DeeLacey. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bill Struble.  
Approved: Unanimous.

**5. Review Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) Revisions: ALAB member Biological Resources Committee presentation**

- Anne McMahon led discussion of subcommittee draft comments that were provided to all members. Each comment includes reference to individual that made comments.
- Bill Struble shared concerns with document Purpose and Introduction sections and recommended including language from the existing Ag and Open Space Element (AOSE) to clarify what properties are affected by policies. He provided language from AOSE. Group discussed and agreed to review and consider recommendation. Group further discussed how all general plan elements apply to all land use categories and that there may be overlap in policies. Clarification was provided regarding the requirement for internal consistency of land use element policies and that the Ag Element is not the only place that land use policies that apply to agriculture/ag zoned land may be located.
- Brenda Ouwerkerk recommended presenting any and all comments to Planning Dept.
- Richard Quandt questions subcommittee approach. Time constraints may not allow for consensus as a large group. Shared concerns with moving forward.
- COSE comment/recommendation methodology discussion occurred. General agreement that format established by Biological Resources Committee may be appropriate. General understanding that consensus on all issues may not occur.
- Various members share concerns regarding pending comment deadline.
- Brenda Ouwerkerk recommends focusing on concepts rather wordsmithing.
- Joy Fitzhugh comments bulk of document very good but there needs to be more reference to existing ag policies. Members discuss need for policy consistency between all elements including the Ag Element.
- Anne continues sharing subcommittee comments. Group discussion followed.
- No action taken on Biological Resources Committee's recommendations other than items discussed.

**6. Review Conservation and Open Space Element Revisions: ALAB member Soils Resources Committee presentation**

- Jean-Pierre Wolff discussed methodology for soil subcommittee recommendations. Discussed summary and more detailed recommendations. Felt section on soil needed major reorganization. Recommended three major goals and highlighted what needed to be augmented. Subcommittee did not have time or expertise to provide specific language. Reference to Ag Element important and suggested color references in margins could be used.
- No action taken on Soil Resources Committee's recommendations.
- Concerns regarding time constraints once again discussed. Jean-Pierre Wolff suggests pressing review process could disenfranchise some members of the community. Compressed

deadline would be a disservice to Planning Dept because the end product would not get adequate input from this group that consists of several expert volunteers.

- Brenda Ouwerkerk makes recommendation for ALAB to send letter to Planning requesting more time to submit comments.
- MOTION: Dee Lacey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick Nock - to send letter to Planning Department to request additional time for review and comment submittal. Unanimously approved.
- Members agree to a special meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1.30 pm, at Farm Bureau, to further discuss Draft COSE. Lynda Auchinachie to bake snacks. In addition to regularly scheduled meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, a special meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> is tentatively scheduled at 6 pm to further review COSE and provide comments/recommendations if Planning Department grants the time extension.

#### **7. SPECIAL MEETING – February 20, 2009, 1.30 pm, Farm Bureau**

- Subcommittee discussions to include Intro., water and visual sections.

#### **8. Future agenda items**

- Subcommittee reports and comment formalization for COSE Visual Resources and Water Resources chapters (March 2). ALAB's Comments due to Planning Department March 6.
- Tentative special meeting on March 16, 6pm. COSE will continue to be discussed if Planning Dept grants time extension.

Meeting adjourned: 8.30 PM